

Alert #06-07: Action Needed on House Budget Amendments for ABE April 13, 2007

ALERT SUMMARY:

1. **PURVIEW:** State
2. **LEVEL OF MOBILIZATION:** Staff, adult learners, volunteers
3. **WHO IS BEING CONTACTED:** State representatives only (not senators)
4. **TIMEFRAME:** Immediate

FY2008 HOUSE BUDGET AMENDMENTS FILED FOR ABE LINE ITEM #7035-0002

- The FY2008 House budget released on April 12 **did not** provide level funding for the ABE line item #7035-0002.

- **Rep. Dan Bosley** has filed an amendment to increase the amount of ABE funding to \$32.5 million, which is equal to ABE's FY2007 appropriation (\$29.5 million through the budget process plus \$3 million through the Economic Stimulus Bill).

- **Rep. Denise Provost** has also filed an amendment to increase the amount of ABE funding to \$40 million.

- Last year, there were approximately 1,000 amendments filed and most of them never reached the floor for a vote. Given the number of amendments that are likely to be filed and the current difficult fiscal situation, MCAE is supporting both amendments to hopefully increase the possibility of at least one of the amendments reaching the floor for a vote.

CALL YOUR REPRESENTATIVE IMMEDIATELY TO URGE HIM/HER TO SIGN ON:

- **Please contact your representative and ask him/her to sign on to both the Bosley amendment and the Provost amendment.**

* Last year, there were more than 900 amendments filed, and the House never voted on most of them. It will be very difficult for an amendment to reach the floor for a vote unless there is a lot of strong support for it.

* If we could get 81 representatives to sign on to both amendments, we would have a majority of the representatives actively demonstrating their support for an increase in ABE funding. We would have a much better chance that one or both of the amendments will reach the floor for a vote.

- **Please also ask your representative to make 2 calls of support:**

* Call House Ways and Means Chairman DeLeo to ask him to support an ABE funding increase and urge House Speaker DiMasi to make sure the Bosley amendment and the Provost amendment reach the floor for a vote.

* Call House Speaker DiMasi to ask him to support an ABE funding increase and make sure both the Bosley amendment and the Provost amendment reach the floor a vote..

- **When you call, you can speak to either the representative or his/her aide, or leave a message.**

SCRIPT TO USE:

- My name is _____ and I'm a registered voter in Representative ____'s district. (If you are not registered and are eligible, please register to vote since your opinion carries more weight as a registered voter).

- I'm calling to urge you to sign on to both the Bosley amendment and the Provost amendment to increase funding for the ABE line item #7035-0002.

- I'm also calling to ask you to please urge Chairman DeLeo to support an ABE funding increase and ask Speaker DiMasi to make sure both the Bosley amendment and the Provost amendment reach the floor for a vote.

- Adult basic education is important to me because _____.

- Do you know if Representative ____ plans to sign on? If you don't know yet, when could I call back to see what he/she has decided to do?

- Thank you very much for your time.

IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Because of school vacation next week, we did not want to delay getting this information out to you as soon as possible even though the amendments have not yet been assigned numbers. As soon as we know the numbers, we will send another alert. However, do not delay making your calls. Time is very short.

- Also, because representatives will be continuously signing on to amendments, if your representative has already signed on by the time you make your call, please thank him/her for his/her support and still ask them to call Speaker DiMasi and Chairman DeLeo.

BUDGET TIMELINE:

Time to make calls: immediately

Deadline for signing on to amendments: Friday, April 20 at 5 p.m.

Budget debate begins: Monday, April 23

REPORT BACK:

- If you receive a definite commitment from your representative that he/she will sign on to either or both of the amendments, please report back to your Program Point Person who will then report to the MCAE Regional Coordinator.

- If you do not know who your Program Point Person is or you don't have one, please report back directly to the MCAE Regional Coordinator.

- As always, it is vital that we have this information in order to know where our support is and can plan strategy.

REGIONAL COORDINATORS:

Boston: Robert Hibbard (robert_hibbard@ccab.org)

Central: Cathy Gannon (cgannon@qcc.mass.edu)

Northeast: Don Edwards (edwardsdon@verizon.net)

Southeast: Suzanne Martin (suzannemartin@brocktonpublicschools.com)

West: George Kohout (gkohout@hcc.mass.edu)

QUESTIONS:

- If you are not sure who your state representative is, either call the State House switchboard (9617.722.2000) or go to www.wheredoivotema.com.

- For questions, contact Roberta Soolman (litvolma@aol.com or 617.367.1313) or Steve Reuys (steve.reuys@umb.edu or 617.287.4071).

THANK YOU!

- Your help is very important to ensure vital ABE services for our students. Thank you!